

ROADS GAVE OIL TRUST LOW RATE

Important Testimony of Witness Before Com- mission

HEARING IS ENDED AFTER THREE DAYS

Commissioners Go to Washing-
ton to Prepare Report, But
Will Allow Time for
Argument By
Counsel for
Standard

(By Associated Press.)
CLEVELAND, OHIO, May 25.—After three days spent in taking testimony concerning the affairs of the Standard Oil Company, Interstate Commerce Commission judges and counsel adjourned the hearing this afternoon, and shortly thereafter started for Washington, where they are expected soon to begin the preparation of their report on the testimony taken here and in Chicago for presentation to the commission. The hearing, however, will not be closed until the Standard Oil Company's attorneys have been given ample opportunity to reply to the many statements and charges put in evidence. Attorney Virgil P. Kline, for the Standard Oil Company, asked for a two-day adjournment, that he desired to answer some of the testimony produced, and requested the commissioners to name a suitable time and place for the reopening of the case for this purpose. Mr. Kline was told that this would be extended to him, and that a time and place would be fixed in the near future.

In the three days' hearing just completed, a total of thirty-five witnesses had been called. Some of the fifty or sixty were subpoenaed. Some of them were not called. Counsel for the commissioners, however, had five or six on hand ready to be sworn, but the commissioners declined to hear them, indi-

Important Testimony.
To-day's developments were regarded as important and were in keeping with the general line of inquiry made during the two previous days. The first witness was W. E. MacEwen, formerly chief clerk in the car department of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad Company in this city. He said he was in a position to know much of the inner workings of the car department, and he proceeded to tell what he knew of the handling of the cars. He said the cars of the Union Pacific (Standard) and Great Northern were given a great advantage over rival cars in computing mileage and freight bills. The bills of one would be computed according to one standard of distance and weight, and the other according to another standard. The result was that the Standard was enabled to save a considerable sum over the charges made to competing companies.

MacEwen said he was with the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern when the late he left it he started the work with the Peerless Transit Company, a small rival

tank line. Knowing how mileage and charges were being computed, he went to the proper Lake Shore officials and asked for the same advantage as was extended to the Union Tank Line. The officials, he testified, made light of his request, ridiculed him, and said he was showing great ignorance of things. Not discouraged, however, he obtained copies of the compilations of car reports, which were duly forwarded to the Cleveland office of the Standard Oil Company, and taking them to the officials of the Lake Shore, finally succeeded in accomplish-

ling his object. Several weeks ago, he said, he noticed that the high rate was again being charged against his company, and going to the general office, he informed them of the mistake; that the Peerless Transit Company being the only exception to the high charges, except the Union Line, the matter had been entirely forgotten.

To Subsidize Newspapers.

Special Counsel Monnett endeavored to show by several witnesses during the day that the Standard Company maintained a press bureau for the purpose of subsidizing Ohio newspapers, one hundred thousand dollars a year, he said, were on the Standard's list.

W. J. Brickell, for many years the edi-

for of the Columbus, Ohio, Evening Dispatch, was one of the witnesses called with this end in view. Mr. Brickell was asked whether his paper did not accept Standard Oil literature and publish it at news space rates. He said that he had no positive knowledge on the subject and that the business manager was the proper person to go to for such information. Malcolm Jennings, who conducts an advertising bureau at Lancaster, Ohio, was called for the same purpose. He admitted

that he made advertising contracts with Ohio newspapers for the Standard Oil Company, but said they were no different than those made for any other concern.

Literary Bureau.

Another witness in this line was Charles J. Castle, who was for fifteen years a special agent of the Standard in Cleveland territory. He said that the literary bureau was conducted by Charles A. Ricka, who, on the witness stand yesterday, denied that any such thing existed.

C. B. Chamberlain, secretary and treasurer of the Globe Oil Company, of Cleveland, was one of the other important witnesses of the day. He told about trying to get a contract for lubricating the Hocking Valley Railroad, but he said their purchasing agent, C. B. Duffy, told him that he could not buy lubricating oil from him as that would lose the road hundreds of thousands of dollars in freightage from the Standard Oil Company.

TRUST'S EFFORT TO BRIBE ASSEMBLY

(By Associated Press.)

WABASH, IND., May 26.—Arthur L. Hughes to-day made public the fact that he has a large number of letters which are the property of O. A. Baker, who is hiding to escape an indictment on the charge of attempted bribery of the last Legislature in connection with the pas-

page of the anti-cigarette law; ~~the~~